

The PAN-ARUBAN

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OBITUARY NOTICES

THE PAN ARUBAN (itself)

With the driving home of the last staple in the last copy of this issue at 5:05 this afternoon, the Pan Aruban, age thirty-four years two months, died. The copy that readers now hold in their hands is the last.

Those at the wake are pleased that the end was quick and merciful, with no wasting away, no creeping paralysis. The paper has been moderately healthy to the end (though the spectre of certain economic realities could be seen in the distance) and those who cherish it would rather go out with a bang than a whimper.

The Pan Aruban did not die from hardening of the arteries -- plainly a hazard considering its age -- nor did it die from economic distress, an equal possibility at this stage of history.

No, its ailment was deeper, and seemingly incurable. We simply ran out of dedicated people.

For many years the Pan Aruban was a five-man operation (always plus a major assist from the editor's wife.) When the staff shrank to four a couple of years ago and then to three last year, the handwriting was on the wall. And when the staff recently eroded to two old faithfuls, that handwriting on the wall began to flash like a Broadway sign. Dedication can go only so far, and the point of no return has been passed.

Far from finding regular staff members who will grub away month after month and year after year, it has become impossible to dig up even temporary replacements. And we finally have to face the fact that typewriters will not punch themselves, and advertising copy will not jump full-born from a merchant's mind to a page in a newspaper.

Throughout its long life the Pan Aruban has never been a place for dilettantes. None of this breed (and we tried many) ever lasted more than a month. Those who kept the Pan Aruban alive for nearly thirty-five years did so for many different motives. Whether for cash (not plentiful) or glory (miniscule) or simply because they en-

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